



**Chemical Terrorism Clinical Specimen Collection and Labeling**  
**STATE LABORATORY INSTITUTE**  
305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, Ma, 02130

## **Collecting specimens**

### ***Required specimens***

Unless you are otherwise directed, collect the following specimens from each person who may have been exposed:

- **Whole blood**—Use three 4-mL or larger purple-top (EDTA) tubes, vacuum-fill only (**unopened**). **If collecting in 3 mL purple top tubes, please collect a fourth tube.** Please mark the first purple-top tube of whole blood collected with a “1” using indelible ink. The first purple-top tube of whole blood collected will be used to analyze for blood metals.
- **Whole blood**—Use one 3-mL or larger gray-top **or** one 3-mL or larger green-top tube, vacuum-fill only (**unopened**).
- **Urine**—**Collect at least 25 mL.** Use a screw-capped plastic container. **Freeze as soon as possible** (–70° C or dry ice preferred). If possible, ship the specimen on dry ice. If dry ice is not available, you may ship frozen specimens with freezer packs. **For pediatric patients, collect urine only, unless otherwise directed.**

### ***Blanks***

For **each lot number** of tubes and urine cups used for collection, please provide two empty unopened purple-top tubes, two empty unopened green- or gray-top tubes, and two empty unopened urine cups to serve as blanks for measuring background contamination. **Please label and tape blanks as you would a sample to ensure that blanks are not tampered with.**

## **Labeling**

Label specimens with labels generated by your facility. These labels should include the following information: medical records number, specimen identification number, collector’s initials, and date and time of collection. **Follow your facility’s procedures for proper specimen labeling.**

Complete a **Specimen Submission Form** for each patient’s set of blood tubes and another for the patient’s urine specimen.

Place a single, unbroken strip of waterproof, tamper-evident forensic evidence tape over each specimen top, being careful not to cover the specimen ID labels. This tape must make contact with the specimen container at two points. **The individuals placing the evidence tape must identify themselves by writing their initials ½ on the container and ½ on the evidence tape.**

## **Patient list**

Maintain a list of names with corresponding specimen identification numbers at the collection site to enable results to be reported to the patients.